# LIBERATION NEWS SERVICE

NO. 229 JANUARY 28, 1970

LNS #229 January 28, 1970

Year of the Big Lie . . . . . 1
Death d/b.a. Landlord . . . . . 3
Abbey Road: Side 1 . . . . . 5
Women in Communes . . . . . 7
"Love" station fires Gay Gdy . . . . . 9
Berkeley Tenants Vote to Strike . . . . . 9
Media People Get it Togeth.r . . . . . 10
SCEF Staffers Busted. . . . . 11
GE: Capitalism in Action . . . . . 12
THE RADICAL MEDIA BULLETIN BOARD . . . . . 15
The GE strike and the Labor movement
an interview . . . . 19
plus shorts and graphics

COVER: Cops move against GE strikers during the last nation-wide strike in 1946. That strike was against more than just GE, it was a combined strike of all electrical, auto and steel workers -- nearly a half million workers. As a result of that strike the corporations and the government put through legislation to break the power of unions, and mounted an anti-communist hysteria campaign which decimated the labor movement. Credit UE News/LNS

staff collective

[illegible] ✓bob heilbroner
✓beryl epstein ✓alan howard
✓howie epstein ✓karen kearns
✓barbara fechstein ✓andy marx
✓mary fabstein ✓penny orr
✓david fechter ✓barbara rothkrug
✓ed franklin sheila ryan
✓joseph greenspan ✓mike shuster
✓nick gravenberg ✓allen young

AND

anne dockery kathy mulvihill andy klein
in the west coast. . . . . karen wald

NOTE TO ALL LNS SUBSCRIBERS: WE WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE IT IF YOU WOULD RUN THE FOLLOWING AS A LETTER-TO-THE-EDITOR IN THE SPACE YOU ORDINARILY GIVE TO SUCH THINGS, OR RUN IT ANYWHERE IN YOUR PAPER THAT YOU CHOOSE. ALSO, PLEASE DIG DEEP TO PAY ANY BACK BILLS YOU OWE LNS. WE ARE DESPERATE.

Dear Reader,

From time to time, you may have noticed the credit "Liberation News Service" or "LNS" on articles or photos or drawings in this paper. Liberation News Service sends out two packets of written and graphic materials two times each week to about 500 subscribing newspapers and magazines. We are now in the midst of a serious financial crisis. While we have appealed to our subscribers for help, we can easily understand that most of them face their own budgetary hassles. May we appeal directly to you, the readers of the radical and underground press? Please send your contributions to Liberation News Service, 160 Claremont Ave, New York, N.Y. 10027. Thank you very much.

Love and struggle,
The LNS Staff

PHOTOGRAPHERS -- Send your pictures to the LNS photo-book. Write for more info.

LIBERATION News Service

Jan 28, 1970
Issue #229
Published two times a week
Subscription rates $15 a month, $180 a year.

160 Claremont Ave.
New York, N.Y. 10027

Phone: (212) 749-2200

SECOND CLASS POSTAGE
PAID AT NEW YORK, N.Y.

If you are missing a packet or receive one with a blank page, or a missing page, or a badly printed graphic or photo, please call us collect or write and we will send you what you need. We try our best to fill

---

YEAR OF THE BIG LIE

by Fred Gardner

LIBERATION News Service

Soldiers are shipping out for Vietnam from West Coast embarkation points at a rate that recalls the 1966 build-up -- 1,700 one day, 3,000 the next. The Oakland Army Terminal is so jammed with GIs on their way to war that hundreds had to sleep out in pup tents during the torrential rains of early January.

The number of men going to Vietnam will not be released to the press this time. Nixon understands that a bigger war requires bigger lies. His master plan is to change our idea of who we are as a people.

The old myth had it that we Americans are decent folks who admire Abe Lincoln and want, for foreigners, only free elections, an opposition press and enough protein. For a long time this self-image kept everyone smug and righteous while the cold warriors extended the empire through murder and intrigue.

But in the sixties it backfired. As millions of Americans were mobilized to kill in Vietnam, more and more stood up to say that the war violated their country's tradition and spirit. Lyndon Johnson yearned to tell people that their destiny is to do evil. He conducted government business while defecating, tortured his beagle in public, exhorting soldiers to bring home a coonskin for the wall. In the end, however, he was afraid to switch lies in mid-stream.

Nixon's not afraid; he's been doing it all his life. His political career, from the Hiss case on, has been built on gutsy falsehoods. The White House has called our attention to three polls so far in 1970 (or "the seventies" as they put it, stressing that it's their era to define). The first said that Richard Nixon is the man we admire most, followed by Agnew and Billy Graham. The most respected woman, we're told, is Mamie Eisenhower.

That whole poll was written by Nixon after he finished watching 14 straight hours of football New Year's Day. He heard broadcasters describe at least five quarterbacks as All-Americans -- a mathematical impossibility made possible by the fact that All-Americans are determined by opinion and publicity. The number one team in the country is also named; there is no objective procedure such as a tournament to determine who's best. Nixon himself consecrated Texas as number one. (Southern strategy at work and play.) He is now trying, likewise, to transform his political opinions into facts by applying the sports-world format to real-world matters. Here's a tip-off: Nixon's "poll" of respected Americans listed a top ten and a second ten, just like the glossies' All-American teams; and there were honorable mentions for next year's stars such as David Eisenhower.

Polls prey on the democratic instincts of the masses, the snobbery of the intellectuals, and the paranoia of radicals. Everyday people may have no feeling one way or the other about David Eisenhower but, reading that millions admire him, assume he must have something on the ball. On the other hand, wise-asses who have only contempt for David E. transfer that contempt to the people who (purportedly) look up to him. Radicals in particular should be suspicious of the 1970 polls, because we form our strategies -- that is, we speculate about what is politically feasible -- on the basis of "facts" provided by the Man. They could never convince us that, say, Mamie Eisenhower is our greatest woman; but they can convince us that millions of Americans think she is. We shouldn't fall for it. Just as we didn't fall for the liberals' smugness, we shouldn't be swept up in the national self-contempt the fascists are promoting. Both frames of mind lead to an inability to take political action; both are paralyzing.

I felt a twinge of the new defeatism when I read a poll showing that Americans were more upset about the publicity given Song My than about the massacre itself. Wow, we really are a nation of pigs. But then it dawned on me that the poll was a total fake. People had been horrified by the massacre. Certainly my friends had been. And my co-workers, and the grocer and the people who give me rides... In fact nobody could possibly

be upset about the story getting out except the government. People just don't think that way; they don't say 'I wish that story hadn't gotten out.' People want to know the dirt. They might approve of the massacre -- might -- but it's a lie on the face of it to say that everyone is upset because the story got a big play. All of which leads me to believe that people do not approve of the massacre. In fact they deplore it, understand how and why it came to pass, and want out of Vietnam, now.

It follows that the third White House poll of 1970 -- in which we learn that everyone is now pro-war because of Nixon's speech -- is a total shuck. He couldn't convince one mother that the war was worth her son's life. Not one kid was tuned in when he squinted and whispered hoarsely, "And now a word to you young people." If the cripples in the VA hospitals cried, those were tears of rage.

I have never been asked a question by a pollster. I have begun mentioning this to people in my travels (46 states, city and country) and find that they've never been asked, either. For a while I almost believed a Marxist who said that Gallup and Field have been cutting costs and maximizing profits simply by making up the answers. It was a relief to learn that this wasn't true; there are pollsters, and they operate out of a town in southwestern Missouri which they consider typical because of its geography and median age and income.

The pollster wears a sharkskin suit and a narrow, glossy tie which suggests to many "interviewees" that he is an undercover policeman. He waves a clip-board, the ultimate symbol of bureaucratic authority, which often triggers a Pavlovian obedience-reaction, particularly among veterans. "Do you approve of President Nixon's steps for a just peace in Vietnam?" It's almost impossible to answer No. If someone dares ask, "What do you mean 'just peace?'" the pollster demands a yes or no answer. Only when the ruling class itself is split on a question are the people permitted to be undecided in significant numbers.

The recent spate of blatant-lie polls makes me wonder about the Nielsen ratings -- I don't know anybody who watches Johnny Carson -- and the census. Census takers also operate with clip boards, and may well be onto the pollsters shuck. Is it possible that key portions of the U.S. Census Report are untrue? I have long doubted that the country is only 11% black. Look around. Start counting. Eleven per cent? I read in Fortune that Chicago is about to become a "majority black city." But as far back as 1961 I noticed that you ride for miles before you see a white face in Chicago. Chicago must have been a "majority black city" for years! The same is true of Newark, which only recently became a "majority black city."

The population of the United States may actually be 33% black.

The danger is that we, the people, will keep going on the basis of what they tell us. We shouldn't. We should believe our own eyes and ears, our own instincts. I'm not even buying the World Almanac in 1970.

-30-

++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++

BOY SCOUT FIRST AID: AN ANTIDOTE TO RED POISON

NEW YORK (LNS) -- The Boy Scout movement has long been regarded as a paramilitary indoctrination course for Western Civilization's children.

Now a Massachussetts autograph dealer is offering for sale a letter which confirms that view of the Scout movement. The letter, dated Oct. 16, 1928, was written by Sir Robert Baden-Powell, the founder of the Boy Scouts. It is addressed to a friend and financial supporter of the organization.

"We have now some 60,000 scouts in London," wrote Baden Powell, "and are tapping the poorer slum districts, as antidote to the red poison which is being industriously dropped there. Our great need is to make camping possible for them since it is a counter-attraction to communism which the boys cannot resist."

-30-

++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++

POWER TO THE PEOPLE'

DEATH D/B/A/ LANDLORD

LIBERATION News Service

[Editor's note: d/b/a/ is an abbreviation of "doing business as."]

NEW YORK (LNS) -- The Southeast Bronx is ugly, grim, and poor. Designated part of New York's Model Cities Program, the area has scores of crumbling tenements which have been abandoned, gutted, or demolished For block after block, only brick frames or piles of rubble rest on the land.

No housing is being built, so the black and Spanish poor are forced to live in the remaining structures, all deteriorated. The landlords know the neighborhood is dying, so they pocket the rents, refuse to make repairs.

S. Grosfeld d/b/a/ Rosgro Realty is typical of slum landlords. He owns a building at 430 East 138th Street. Some 60 families live in the building, with rents averaging $100/month. There are five commercial storefronts as well, operated mostly by black or Spanish businessmen and by one group of Spanish physicians. The landlord collects the rents, but does absolutely nothing for the tenants. He knows he doesn't stand to make anything by trying to keep up the building while the community decays around it. He knows people are desperate for housing in New York and will have to rent his apartments for as long as the building stands.

For the past year, tenants have been trying to remedy the atrocious conditions of the building. Their complaints and experiences mean little to the landlords and city bureaucrats who watch 500,000 housing units deteriorate into slum accomodations every year

Julia, a mother with three young children, has an apartment at 430 There has been no heat throughout the winter The water -- hot and cold -- is periodically shut off Her toilet is split in half, so she has to take her children to a neighbor's house so they can take baths and use the toilet There are huge holes in the apartment's walls, where the plaster has been eaten away by plumbing leaks in apartments upstairs Water leaks into the kitchen, so she had to call on the fire department to disconnect the refrigerator so her children wouldn't be electrocuted. The hallway is not lighted, so she is always afraid of being robbed when she goes out to shop. The mailboxes are broken, so she has to pick up her mail at the post office.

Other tenants have similar complaints. One old man, apparently without friends or family, has to live in an apartment with an inch of water on the floor. One woman works at night, and carries two flashlights with her to light her way upstairs. She believes she takes her life in her hands every day, going to and returning from work. The owner of the bodega (grocery store) has a leak in his shop's ceiling, and water damages his foods. The dry cleaning shop is owned by a black man, who worked years to get a Small Business Administration loan. Now, water floods his shop, falls onto his electrical equipment, and sends his customers elsewhere. "The landlord," he says, "is forcing me out of business." The physicians had to renovate their offices themselves, and install their own heating system because they could get no cooperation from the landlord.

Faced with these problems, the tenants began a battle for repairs. During 1969 they succeeded in winning a rent reduction after taking the landlord to court. He retaliated by dispossessing the "troublemakers." This year, the ritual has begun anew.

Tenants have visited all the neighborhood agencies, requesting help. Welfare, which subsidizes rents of clients in the building, claimed it was powerless. Central Complaints, an agency set up by Mayor John Lindsay to handle calls about lack of heat, took our call, expressed dismay, but did nothing. The Bronx Department of Health was "shocked," and promised "to send an investigator when we can " The State Senator and the Borough President both promised "roof to basement inspections to certify violations," but little has been done, beyond a series of telephone calls to various city departments.

One community agency sent an emergency repairman to the building He expected to fix the plumbing and heating system, then submit the bill to the

landlord. When he went to the building he was met by a man claiming to be the super, and was told to leave the premises on threat of assault. Tenants say there is no super, but the landlord occasionally "hires" guys 'off the street" to make repairs. On one occasion the guy hired as a plumber was a junkie who apparently pawned or sold the tools.

The local legal services office offered to give free legal service to tenants, and an appointment was arranged shortly after Christmas. When the tenants went, the office was locked and closed.

Lindsay's Urban Action Task Force Mobil Unit visited the area early in January, and were told of the situation. The man in charge, a beefy blond with a hairsprayed toupee listened, then said, "I don't want to be difficult, but do you know what a violation is?" Tenants begged him to visit the building, and inspect it himself. He took the information down, then gave them yet another number to call for prompt repairs. When we called, the man said he would pass the message on and a repairman would visit "as soon as possible."

On the morning of January 9, when the temperature was 5 degrees, a young Spanish mother who lives at 430 found her infant son dead in his crib. She believed he had frozen to death in the cold, and one of the doctors in the building agreed with her. The police and the landlord said the child had suffocated.

When the news of the child's death was heard by the tenants, they tried to assault the landlord. Police came and forced the landlord to repair the boiler and get some heat into the building.

Hunts Point Multi-Service, a large anti-poverty program, called a press conference called Nixon, Rockefeller, and Lindsay about the child's death. Hunts Point knew of 500 buildings in the area which were without heat.

Press and television crews visited 430 during the weekend, interviewed tenants, and filmed violations. Only one paper, the Spanish-language daily El Diario, carried the story and printed articles daily as the tenants picketed the building and told of their complaints and attempts to get repairs.

According to one tenant, the landlord offered the mother of the dead child $600 if she "would keep her mouth shut." Her brother-in-law threatened to sue the landlord, and within 10 days the whole family was evicted.

Hunts Point succeeded in relocating some families into a Bronx hotel, with bills to be sent to the Welfare Department. Five days later, the hotel evicted them since Welfare refused to pay. Some tenants returned to 430 only to find that their possessions, left unguarded, had been stolen.

Eight tenants were given dispossess notices and had to appear in Landlord and Tenant Court on January 21. The courtroom was freezing cold, like the apartments at 430. The judge listened, the landlord"s lawyer scribbled fiercely, as tenant after tenant told the court about the cold, the leaks, the holes, unlighted hallways, broken locks, damaged mailboxes, and fear hiding in vacant apartments. The judge gave the landlord two weeks to make repairs, and the landlord's lawyer promised he would pass the message on.

Two more weeks. Those who can are looking for other apartments. Half the building is vacant now, and other tenants would surrender the building if they could find a decent place to live somewhere else.

-30-

---

DEBRAY INTERVIEWED IN JAIL

by LIBERATION News Service

PARIS (LNS)--Pay less attention to me and more to the prisoners being tortured in Brazilian jails, Regis Debray told a French TV reporter recently. The French revolutionary journalist, jailed for his ties with the Bolivian guerrilla movement, was interviewed in his high-security jail in Camiri, not far from the spot where his comrade, Che Guevara, was killed. Debray, who is serving a 30-year term, predicted that he would not be released from jail until 'there was a Bolivian regime that would break its ties to North American imperialism.'

-30-

BOY, YOU'RE GOING TO CARRY THAT WEIGHT
CARRY THAT WEIGHT A LONG TIME
by Karen Jo Koonan and Terry Cannon
LIBERATION News Service/ LEVIATHAN

The Beatles are scared and so are we. *Abbey Road* is an opera, a story, a history, carrying the Beatles and us all through a crisis, the breakdown of 1969. Musical contradictions among the people.

Side one experiences our world: us (freaks), mad killers (the California Zodiac killer), alienation, need and desperation, and the desire to be happy and safe.

The individual songs on side one are part of the experience of terror. The first character in the opera of desperation is Old Flat-top (haircut of the 50's), hair down to his knees, a freak, a joker: a collage of us. Hold you in his armchair you can feel his disease. He shoots Coca-Cola. All he can tell you is you got to be free. Come together, over me. A collection of all our superficialities, everything and nothing. He's got to be good looking cause he's so hard to see. The singer cries, Come Together; the guitar just cries.

*Something* is about the way we've learned to relate: non-verbally. "She" moves, woos, smiles, knows: everything except talk. Something in her style that shows. You ask me (someone else is asking, not her) will my love grow? I don't know, I don't know. "Something" is pulling him toward her and away. Something is making him leave her. He doesn't know why.

*Maxwell*, end product of alienation, mad killer, the scientist who kills with a scientific instrument. Nothing controls him -- love, teachers, law. He writes on the blackboard "I must not be so oh oh oh." I must not *be*. Rose and Valerie, screaming in the gallery, knows what the cops don't know: Maxwell Edison, the invention of the electric light -- he's them too, the mad killers the world is turning us into. Madness and death, done like a college song.

Then a love song from the 50's except it never mentions love. Darling, if you leave me, I'll never make it alone. Terror. Instead of I love you, they sing, I'll never do you no harm. Cause that's the assumption: lovers harm. In the 50's we covered that up with the ideology of undying love. Will my love grow? I don't know, I don't know. Nothing comforts us now, the mask is off. We can't go back to the 50's again. We know too much.

Ringo wants to go to the Octopus's Garden. And so do we, and so do you. In the shade, away from the Heat. The Octopus knows where we've been. We've been in some tough spots and getting tougher. The ante is up, our lives are at stake. Life ain't no big game. We all need vacations and hideaways near something solid, the ocean floor, the coral *with our friends*. Resting our head, below the storm -- knowing we're happy and we're *safe*. Much different from the Yellow Submarine. The octopus's garden is a place you visit, not live. The world is dangerous: new assumption.

*I Want You (She's So Heavy)*. The desperate end of side one. I want you. I want you so bad. I want you. I want you so bad. It's driving me mad. Over and over. Everything is heavy. The music becomes oppressive, an obsession. The same theme repeats more and more intensely, more desperately, the organ screaming/moaning in the background. Listen to the storm engulfing the music at the end, the storm that sweeps above the Octopus's Garden.

Things are moving toward a breakdown, madness, a crackup. When it finally ends in sudden silence you're relieved, grateful. There's no way to end the song except to stop it. Stop it!

-30-

++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++

THE BICYCLES MUST GET THROUGH

DINHQUAN, South Vietnam (LNS) -- With great fanfare from the South Vietnamese government, more than 70 cyclists recently set off on the Tour de Vietnam bicycle race, hopefully to prove the safety of the roads. After several days, the race still had no winner, but had one very definite loser -- a South Vietnamese soldier who was killed when Saigon troops attempted to clear a road for the racers.

After the soldier had been killed, the cyclists were all loaded into military trucks to travel in relative safety. They were set down forty miles later but only after finding themselves engulfed in a 15-minute skirmish with liberation troops.

-30-

WOMEN IN COMMUNES

by Kit Leder

LIBERATION News Service/
WOMEN: A Journal of Liberation

(LNS) -- The first time I picked up an ax, I felt a sense of failure. Twenty-two years of inactivity, a few isolated attempts -- pretending to paint the house with water while my brother, who was only a year older than I, did the real job; or being told to do the dishes instead of mowing the lawn; if there wasn't enough food, to leave more for the men. At twenty-two I still feel young -- at least young enough -- but there's a long time to spend in prison.

What I have learned about the ax is true of most kinds of physical work; use your head, and the ax does work for you. I learned to hit the log first at one angle, then at another, forging a "V" into the trunk; I learned that the thicker the log, the wider the angle had to be; that the ax should come down of its own weight, guided by the hands, and that the arms and body should follow through, just as in swinging a baseball bat. The first day it was hard work -- I kept missing the log, and I got tired very easily. The second day was not so bad. Now I'm no longer afraid of the ax. There are different kinds of weakness -- the kind that grows in the mind, the kind that the body feels if it never had been used -- and the weakness of bullshitting yourself by assuming you can't do something.

The world we live in moves so incredibly fast that it is very easy to avoid asking what we can do, and more important, what we like to do. Conditioned we are -- for instance, any woman who lives in the city can pretty well write off needing to use an ax. And most white middle class women (and men) assume that such activity is beyond the scope of women's potential, calmly ignoring the trusty old pioneer women, the women in rural areas who still chop wood every day -- and even the ones who live in the less affluent part of the city, who more often than not work a hard day to earn a wage that barely supports a family, then work as their own housekeepers for no pay and no recognition. The assumption that women are "weak things" is a middle class luxury. For lower class women, the opposite myth is more convenient -- women are good at tedious (and physically difficult) shit work.

Certain tasks have to be done every day in nearly every living situation (although we often exaggerate addenda into the essential; furniture wax is both a luxury and a cruel oppression), but this world **never** offers us a chance to "start again," with a lump of labor and a group of undifferentiated human beings, so that everyone can decide what he or she really prefers to do, and in the process become not just man or woman, but human.

Something approximating such a chance occurred this summer for a small group of people living on a farm commune. There were twelve of us, give or take a few, for most of the summer, doing work which consisted of planting, weeding, pulling trees, and harvesting, as well as chopping wood, cooking over an open fire, washing clothes, and keeping the tents and the camp clean. There was no running water, which made housekeeping chores a little more difficult, and no electricity, which meant that some of the work, like washing the dinner dishes, was usually done in the dark.

Even though there was no society-dictated division of labor, even though we had complete freedom to determine the division of labor for ourselves, a well-known pattern emerged immediately. Women did most of the cooking, all of the cleaning up, and, of course, the washing. They also worked in the fields all day -- so that after the farm work was finished, the men could be found sitting around talking and taking naps while the women prepared supper. In addition to that, one of the women remained in camp every day in order to cook lunch -- it was always a woman who did this, never a man. Of course, the women were excused from some of the tasks; for example, none of us ever drove the tractor. That was considered too compli-

cated for a woman. We never would have had to haul wood or chop it if we hadn't wanted to.

Does this story sound exaggerated? I think it is true that even men who verbally condone the liberation of women would tend to react the same way in a similar situation, as the result of conditioning. It is true that to some extent our group was free of the dictates of society last summer -- but of course we weren't free of our cultural conditioning, which exists outside of society's institutions, and is, in fact, embodied in the individual. The men in our group were exhibiting a collective system of belief based on early training.

The women, too, had much to overcome, and we had to consciously organize ourselves to face the oppressive conditions which we were partially responsible for creating. We were a minority, and most of us were unattached; we were all between the ages of fifteen and twenty-four; all of us had thought and read, in varying degrees, about the problems which women face. We began holding private caucusses in the woods, far enough from camp so that we could feel free from any stray masculine ears. These meetings were not held in secret, though we said little about them, but they were considered a declaration of war by the men in camp, and in a sense we considered them a sign of secession from the normal order of life as predetermined by the men, and by our own maimed outlooks.

In the meetings we discussed day to day experiences in the camp, related them to what we had gleaned from the past and the condition of women in general, and began to educate ourselves by reading and sharing knowledge. Our strategy was a total re-orientation of our images of what we could and could not do.

One of our tactics was complete non-response to hostility on the part of the men. We had to learn to differentiate between legitimate attempts to discuss women's liberation, and sheer harassment. To the former we would willingly respond; the latter met with neutral silence. In order to forcibly shift the division of labor, we began doing other chores around dinner time. Collecting and chopping wood was an activity which was often neglected in the course of the day, so after our regular farm work, we would turn to the wood instead of the pots. We tried to discover and do things that needed to be done for the maintenance of the camp -- building rather than cleaning.

If a tense situation arose, where a sister was uncertain how to react, there was usually another sister nearby, and a smile, a hand on the arm, or just the knowledge of concern, helped everyone keep calm. We felt that consistency and complete discipline in regard to our willingness to work were of utmost significance in showing the males that our intent was not to humiliate them, but to work toward a more healthy environment for everyone concerned.

Our experiment was a colossal failure. In analyzing what went wrong, it is probably unfair to place the blame completely on the men's inability to understand. Yet, as a woman, that is the only conclusion I can come to. A lot of dusty old myths were dragged out and shoved in our faces...you don't work fast enough; a man can't even get a decent meal around this place unless he cooks it for himself; before you learn to drive a tractor, learn to get the dishes clean (I don't want you fucking with my tractor, baby); is there something wrong with your sex life? you want to be just like a man...

For several weeks we lived in two separate camps. If we went gathering wood at dinner time, the men cooked...for themselves only. They washed their own dishes, but never the pots and pans that the food had come from. In the field we were a separate women's brigade -- all day we worked together and talked liberation, separate from the men.

Those were happy days! Left alone, we taught ourselves, feeling free to be clumsy at first, knowing that we wouldn't laugh at each other. I think we all began to develop confidence in our ability to do things, and my own physical endurance increased tremendously -- I had no reason to let a man take over, ever. I think my sisters and I learned to love and value each

other as women seldom can when they are divided from each other and forced to compete for recognition by the men in their lives -- forced to compete much in the same way that capitalism forces men to compete against each other. In each case, it is the best position in the pecking order that determines how people act toward each other.

The fact that half of the women involved with the farm commune project are no longer there, and that the other half are consciously compromising in order to insure the success of the farm, is a testimony to the long fight which we all face. The inability of the men to respond to our attempts to liberate ourselves seems to be an indication that now is the time to isolate, to learn, to build, and if necessary, when we have the strength, to force a change that must come if we are to be free. Cultural change, through the breaking of boundary conditions on behavior, will have to occur, and can only occur, through a conscious re-orientation of our own self-images.

--30--

**********

WHITE HOUSE HINTS AT NEW VIETNAM POLICY,
WITHDRAWS PROMISE OF TROOP PULL-OUT

WASHINGTON (LNS) -- It pays to have a good ear. Sometimes you get your news months early.

"Withdrawal from combat of U.S. troops in Vietnam" sounds about the same as "withdrawal of U.S. combat troops from Vietnam," but the first is what the administration is promising now and the second is what it promised last year, and there's really a big difference. What the new phraseology permits is for the U.S. to keep its troop strength in Vietnam just as high as it always was so long as combat troops are given some other name.

Nixon enunciated the previous policy on Dec. 8: "We have a plan...for removing all combat forces from Vietnam, regardless of what happens in the negotiations." There's a slight ambiguity perhaps in Nixon's statement, but it was clearly designed to create the impression that the number of GIs in Vietnam would be deflated by the shipload.

On nationwide TV, Jan. 28, Secretary of State William Rogers changed the tune. He announced that plans called only for a removal of troops from combat. At about the same time, Secretary of Defense Melvin Laird told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that American combat troops would remain in Vietnam as long as any noncombat troops were there. And at a Jan. 19 press briefing White House Press Secretary Ronald Ziegler told reporters: "The goal to remove American troops from a combat role in Vietnam is fixed." He repeated his exact wording several times in the briefing. No promise to bring the troops home.

In his TV appearance Laird explained that combat troops left in Vietnam after the current "withdrawal" plan is executed would be confined to protecting other American troops, who, of course, would also be prepared to defend themselves. A Los Angeles Times reporter commented, "In 1965, when President Lyndon B. Johnson first sent ground combat troops to South Vietnam, he said they were going only to protect American installations."

-30-

**********

LIFE IN SOUTH VIETNAM'S PRISONS

[Editor's note: The following account of conditions in the Saigon regime's jails was provided by a correspondent of the Provisional Revolutionary Government Press Agency.]

CAN THO, South Vietnam (LNS) -- There are about 240 detainees, and many more regular prisoners, in the Phong Dinh prison. They come from all over Can Tho province. In the women's jail, each prisoner has at her disposal three square feet of space. The walls are very low and the air is bad.

The prisoners live all year long with their own excrement nearby, undisposed. Their food consists of a bowl of stale rice and a tablespoon of fish sauce. Rotten vegetables are distributed on rare occasions. For sanitary purposes, each person receives two bowls of water every two days. Almost all the prisoners are constantly sick.

In the Central Prison, the regime has incarcerated about 10,000 prisoners, including 300 women, arrested in several western provinces. They are locked up in lots of 250 to 400 in cells 105 feet square, and five to six of them die each day of suffocation.

A common method of torture in the prison (much subtler than electric shock or beating the genitals) is not to give a prisoner water to wash with for an entire week

-30-

##########

THE MALE EGO IS ON THE WAY OUT!

'LOVE' STATION FIRES GAY GUY, COMMUNITY FIGHTS BACK

LIBERATION News Service

SAN FRANCISCO (LNS) -- Radio station KGO, an affiliate of the ABC network, styles itself as the "love" station. For KGO, love equals the winning combination of rock, rapacity and reaction.

KGO's "love" is the cynical Rolfe Peterson, a newscaster, who ended a report on a women's liberation demonstration for self-defense classes with his comment that the San Francisco rapists ought to take their toll from among these women.

KGO's "love" means firing veteran news editor Leo Laurence because he publicly admitted being a homosexual. Laurence has written about Gay Liberation for the Berkeley underground papers.

The firing of Leo Laurence is, on one level, a simple civil rights issue. His union, the National Association of Broadcast Employees and Technicians, is backing him up, and arbitration proceedings have begun.

But ABC is being challenged more fundamentally for the repression it pushes under the name of love. The Gay Liberation Front (GLF) of which Laurence is a member, came into the streets Jan. 16 to demonstrate in support of Laurence and against the ABC reactionaries.

Some 200 strong they came. Mostly men, about two dozen gay women, too. Chanting and shouting, raising clenched fists, holding hands, walking arm in arm.

"Say it loud, we're gay and proud." "Suck cock, beat the draft," "2-4-6-8, Organize to smash the state," "Out of our closets, into the streets!"

Straight people gaped as the demonstrators moved through San Francisco's Tenderloin district to focus on the KGO offices, then go through the downtown shopping area to terminate in the financial district.

The march was leaderless but two men with bullhorns were picked off and arrested, charged with disrupting the peace and obscenity. "Cock," presumably, is a dirty word to the police.

KGO chose not to report the demonstration on the air, while other media gave it ample and sympathetic coverage.

-30-

[Note to editors: LNS thanks the New Media Project and Gary Allinder, both of Berkeley, for the information for the above story.]

++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++

BERKELEY TENANTS VOTE TO STRIKE

BERKELEY, Calif. (LNS) -- Berkeley is building for a massive rent strike. At a community-wide mass meeting of the Berkeley Tenants Union (BTU) on Wednesday, Jan. 21, over 90% of the 950 people attending voted to begin the first rent strike in this city's history on Feb. 1

The strike will square off against a group of landlords who have been increasing their profits by taking advantage of a housing shortage here. Rents have gone up very fast, doubling in the last five years. Housing is getting scarcer and most of what's available is substandard. The old buildings are decaying and the new housing is shoddily constructed.

The decision to call the rent strike is the culmination of five months of organizing tenants into landlord building collectives. All the tenants renting from each particular landlord will band together to fight back against high rents and other forms of property exploitation.

The Berkeley Tenants Union sees its strength in a combined offensive-defensive strategy. Defensively, legal strategy has been designed to stall for months any particular eviction. The legal procedures plus the clogging of the court caldenar by hundreds or perhaps thousands of cases will protect the strikers, who meanwhile will be living in their buildings for free while fighting the evictions.

The union has also vowed to prevent any unfair eviction from taking place. If necessary, BTU members will resort to street action to prevent these evicitons. This could put them into direct confrontation with the Alameda County Sheriffs Dept. -- the police agency responsible for evictions -- for the first time since the People's Park confrontation.

Offensively, the Tenants Union expects to continue organizing new people into the strike. This will build up the economic pressure against the landlords, forcing them to sign the collective bargaining agreement with the BTU or

face bankruptcy.

Berkeley Tenants Union organizers are confident of victory in what is becoming an increasingly class-oriented struggle against landlords. According to the Union, Berkeley -- Casbah of the West -- is ready. Rent is Theft. All Power to the People.

-30-

---

MEDIA PEOPLE GET IT TOGETHER

LIBERATION News Service

BERKELEY, Calif. (LNS) -- The mass media of communication -- the press, radio-tv, the movies, the publishing houses, etc. -- are part and parcel of American society. The movement has been saying that for years. Now, in several parts of the country, people concerned with engaging the mass media in combat, and with organizing people who work in the media, are getting together.

People are rapping and radical publications are being born.

The latest development is the organization of the New People Media Project and the publication of its paper, Overload. The first issue of Overload contains articles about the struggle for youth markets, the latest trend in youth-oriented films and the battle over the airwaves. For a sample copy of Overload and other information, write New People Media Project, P.O. Box 4356, Sather Gate Sta., Berkeley, California 94704. If you're in the Bay Area, you can visit them at Sherwood Forest, 2398 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, or call 415 843-1865.

The Bay Area is not the first place to have a radical media project. In Chicago, soon after the Democratic Convention, a group of newspapermen began publishing the Chicago Journalism Review (35 E. Hubbard Street, Chicago 60611) to respond to the political and ideological pressures they were experiencing on the job. The Review staff is now making plans for a Chicago area newsweekly and the broadcast of a monthly media review over the local public television station.

A New York Media Project was initiated last summer by journalists at the major newspapers, news magazines, TV networks and book publishers. They held demonstrations during the Moratorium and Mobilization to express their opposition to the war and the media's role in perpetuating it. They publish Rat-O-Lites (c/o 516 W. 180st St., Apt. 4, NYC 10033). A spin-off of the project, Media Mobilization, plans to come out with a newsletter of its own next month (P.O. Box 615, Radio City Station, NYC 10019). Their approach will probably be less militant and more "professional" than Rat-O-Lites. Another new group MediaWomen, issues Women's Monthly (PO BOX 1692, New York, N.Y. 10001), a periodical devoted to women's liberation and the media.

In the San Francisco Bay Area, a group called Black Journalists has been in operation for several months. They publish a monthly Bay and Chain Review (PO Box 9001, Berkeley, Calif. 94701). Several weeks ago, a group of Bay Area white journalists issued their first broadside, The Equal Times. Copies are available from the New People Media Project in Berkeley.

-30

---

THIEU'S ANTI COMMUNIST POLITICAL FRONT COLLAPSES, PUBLIC RELATIONS STUNT NEVER HAD AN OFFICE

SAIGON (LNS) -- It has been ten months since several hundred politicians from all over Vietnam gathered at Saigon's Rex Theater to unveil the National Social Democratic Front, Nguyen van Thieu's answer to the National Liberation Front (NLF). The PR men went to work and millions of Americans were presented with Thieu's "democratic" alternative on their seven o'clock news.

But the Vietnamese people heard even less than that.

Since the Rex Theater assemblage, the Front has not rented an office, hired a staff or adopted a position. Even in Saigon, the NLF is making a better showing with clandestine but very effective organizing in the poorer districts. Saigon and U.S. troops -- aside from deserters -- enter these pro-NLF quarters only with trepidation and with the protection of large numbers.

One of the six founding parties has since renounced Thieu's front. Half the leadership of two other parties denounced the front as moribund and walked out. And on Jan. 19 South Vietnam's major labor unions withdrew as well.

Thieu himself has not referred to the front since he created it last year. -30

## TWO SCEF STAFFERS BUSTED FOR SENDING A LETTER

by LIBERATION News Service

MUNFORDVILLE, Ky. (LNS)--Two young white people have been indicted here for protesting the prosecution of six black people from Louisville.

The charge against them is "embracery"--which the courts define as attempting to "influence or prejudice a jury."

Mike Honey and Martha Allen, who are husband and wife, had sent a letter to all telephone subscribers (over 1000 persons) in Hart County where Munfordville is located, asking them to protest the trial here of defendants known as the "Black Six."

The couple are on the staff of the Southern Conference Educational Fund (SCEF)- a Southwide organization fighting racism, poverty, and war. They are assighed by SCEF organizing throughout the South against repression of people working for social change. They signed the letter on behalf of the Kentucky Committee Against Repression, which includes representatives from several freedom and peace organizations.

Honey was placed in the Munfordville jail and refused to post a $2000 bond, while attorneys prepared a challenge to his arrest in Federal Court. Miss Allen was in Washington, D.C., working on another case of repression when the indictment was returned, and planned to return to Kentucky within a few days.

Arresting officers ransaked the apartment occupied by the couple and took notebooks, name-and-address files, printed literature and personal items such as wedding pictures. They did not show Honey either an arrest warrant or a search warrant.

The Black Six case dates back to the May, 1968 uprising in Louisville's West End ghetto. Five leaders in the Louisville black community (Sam Hawkins, Robert Kuyu, Mrs. Ruth Bryant, Manfred Reid, and Pete Cosby), along with a SNCC volunteer from Washington (James Cortez), were later arrested and charged with conspiracy to destroy private property. Several of the six had spoken at a street corner meeting protesting police brutality just before the uprising broke out.

There were widespread protests in both black and white communities in Louisville. In January 1969 Louisville Prosecutor Edwin A. Schroering, Jr., asked the court to move the trial out of Louisville because of pre-trial publicity.

The Court moved the case to Munfordville, a rural, predominantly white community 75 miles south of Louisville. Trial was postponed twice and finally set for the term of court starting January 5, 1970.

On January 1, Mike Honey and Martha Allen mailed their controversial letter. It said in part:

"...Many people in Louisville are angry about this prosecution. They are angry because city and state officials are trying to make scapegoats of these six people. The politians are trying to jail these six people because they spoke up about unemployment, bad housing, poverty and racism. If they can be jailed for speaking their minds, so can you.... We hope you are angry too. We urge you to protest against this trial being pushed off on you."

When attorneys for the Black Six appeared in court on January 5, Hart Circuit Judge Charles R. Richardson said the letter had made a fair trial in Munfordville impossible and asked defense attorneys to move for transfer back to Louisville, which they did. The judge also said the signers of the letter had committed a "heinous crime" and asked the Grand Jury to indict them. The indictments were returned 10 days later.

Meanwhile, Prosecutor Schroering opposed the moving of the case back to Louisville, and Judge Richardson did not make an immediate final ruling on this question.

Manfred Reid, one of the Black Six defendants, issued a statement to the press condemning "the actions of the Hart County Grand Jury in their inconceivable and injustifiable violation of the rights of Mike Honey and Martha Allen."

A number of citizens in Louisville are in the process of preparing a "complicity letter" to send to all the Hart County residents who received the Honey-Allen letter. It says in part.

"If sending that letter to you was a crime so is publishing a newspaper, so is talking to your neighbor on the street. The Hart County Court has said that it is a crime for American citizens to communicate with each other. We say it is not.

If sending that letter was a crime, then sending this one is too. The signers of this letter are equally guilty..."

In a statement from the Munfordville jail, Honey himself said, "The real issue in these indictments is not whether we sent that letter -- it's what the letter said, the political beliefs it expressed. The letter said plainly that the Black Six case is a fraud to begin with...our indictment is just one more attempt to shut up people who protest these things."

Miss Allen said freedom of the press is a major issue in the case and added, "Most people don't own big newspapers, and the newspapers often don't print what we say. Our only recourse is to do what we did -- print our views ourselves and distribute them. If we are to be jailed for that, there is no freedom of the press for us, for most citizens."

SCEF plans to make a major fight around the case, according to a statement from Anne Braden, associate director. She said, "We as citizens are being denied the right to speak out publicly against injustice and oppression. We are prepared to fight and go to jail if necessary."

-30-

**********

GE: CAPITALISM IN ACTION

Old Mole / LNS

A Short History of General Electric, wherein progresswas clearly not its most important product.

1911

A Federal Court holds that GE has violated the Sherman anti-trust act by fixing prices and concealing stock ownership of supposed competitors. This is the first of at least 65 anti-trust cases brought against GE

1932

A GE engineer's report reveals that GE has successfully reduced the life of its flashlight bulbs from that of three batteries to two and is working on reducing the life of a bulb to that of a single battery. It is estimated that this would increase flashlight business by 60%

1940

GE is indicted by the government for conspiring with the German Krupp corporation to fix prices internationally. (Adolph Krupp served six years after the war for using concentration camp slave labor in his factories.) At the same time that GE was convicted of conspiring with Krupp, Nazi planes were bombing London and British planes were bombing Krupp's armament plant in Essen. The trial was postponed until after the war. In 1948 GE was convicted of having conspired with Krupp from 1928 to 1940. Nonetheless, two of GE's leading officials, C.E. Wilson and Ralph Cordiner served as vice-chairmen of the War Production Board from 1942 to 1944.

1949

GE convicted of monopolizing electric bulbs. Suits totalling $104 million were settled for less than $2 million.

1953

In a bust of anti-union "patriotism" GE announces that it will "discharge from its employ all admitted Communists, spies, and saboteurs, and will suspend employees who refuse to testify under oath on such matters when queried in public hearings conducted by government authority."

1954

Joe McCarthy holds hearings on the United Electrical Workers' alleged "subversion" in GE's Schenectady plant. So many GE workers are outraged that the hearings are dropped

1954

GE gives us Ronald Reagan. Before being hired by GE to host and act in its TV show, Ronnie was $18,000 in debt and emceeing a Las Vegas night club act. While GE Theatre ran from 1954 to 1962 Reagan visited all 135 GE plants and spoke before innumerable civic groups. During his climb into the public eye his rap changed from Hollywood gossip to the "attempted takeover of the industry by the Communists."

1956

GE executives, including company vice-president W.F. Oswalt, and executives from other electric manufacturing companies, moved into separate cabins at Camp Keystone, North Bay, Ontario. A messenger carried communications between them and when the session was over, prices on heavy electrical control

equipment increased by ten percent.

1958

Eight meetings similar to the one described above take place.

1959

Thirty-five meetings occur. The executives use code names, assumed names, pay telephones, plain envelopes, and never contact each other at company headquarters.

1960

GE is named defendant in 37 anti-trust suits.

1961

Ralph Cordiner, President of GE, is named the National Association of Manufacturer's "Man of the Year."

1961

GE's manager of employment practices writes: "It is a pleasure to endorse without reservation, the National Education Program." NEP is chiefly known for its film "Communism on the Map" produced by John Bircher Glenn A. Green and widely used by the Birch Society. The film contends that the only remaining non-Communist countries in the world are West Germany, Formosa, Switzerland, and the United States. GE has set up an educational program to teach its 280,000 workers the "fundamental facts" about America's private enterprise system.

1964

GE threatens to shut down its Schenectady plant unless the United Electrical Workers agree to shift 3000 workers from piece rate to day rate. The resulting pay cut could average $60 a week per worker. The union is forced into a compromise measure. GE is assured good publicity since it owns television and radio stations in Schenectady.

1965

Workers in Waynesboro, Virginia vote to join UE. GE challenged the vote only to be overruled by the National Labor Relations Board. Twice more GE refuses to recognize UE and is overruled. The company finally seeks to overturn the decision in court.

-30-

[Note: All of the information for this history came from a pamphlet entitled GE, Profile of a Corporation by Jerry DeMuth.]

## GE'S MANUAL FOR CORPORATE FRONT-LINERS

Old Mole / LNS

An internal memo prepared by GE dealing with confrontations shows that the central office has whole departments devoted to producing the non-commital bullshit they come out with at the bargaining table.

Take for example, this list of directions for a Company spokesman facing a confrontation:

*a.* use the appropriate digest of positive Company attitudes and accomplishments.

*b.* avoid conferring legitimacy on a demand that may or may not have merit.

*c.* avoid any specific commitment that could prejudice subsequent assessment and consideration of the demand.

*d.* avoid being responsive to the demand itself.

GE feels that they are in for heavy weather. The introduction to the memo sets the problem out thus:

> There is a growing likelihood that industry in general and General Electric in particular face a mounting wave of confrontations similar to those directed against church and campus.

GE goes on to state their objective in solving the problem:

> Identify sites and subjects of likely confrontation with the company. Prepare management for a standard operating procedure of reaction that will maintain a favorable corporate image with minority groups and with the public at large without compromising future corporate actions or decisions and without provoking escalation of the conflict.

Later in the memo GE states:

> The currently mounting attack upon...the military-industrial complex is stage-setting for a new period of political attack upon virtually every aspect of corporate management.

-30-

**********

## ANTI-WAR SONGS NET FIVE YEARS HARD LABOR

SAIGON, South Vietnam (LNS) -- A Saigon military court has sentenced a young South Vietnamese musician to five years at hard labor for composing anti-war songs. The musician's name was Phan Van Thang. -30-



MORE....-

AMERICAN MACHETE-WIELDERS ON THEIR WAY HOME, 500 MORE SET FOR TRIP TO CUBA'S CANEFIELDS

HAVANA, Cuba (LNS) -- The 216 members of the Venceremos Brigade in Cuba have finished their cane-cutting stint and are now on a two-week tour of the island. In early February, they are expected to travel by boat from Cuba to Canada. Meanwhile the second contingent of the brigade, consisting of about 500 members, is getting ready for departure to Cuba to take up their machetes in the drive for a record Ten Million Ton sugar harvest.

-30-

CAVEAT EMPTOR : RIP-OFF BOOTLEG BEATLES

BOSTON (LNS) -- Hip entrepreneurs have done it again. The latest addition to the catalog of bootleg records (that so far includes four records by Bob Dylan and one by the Rolling Stones) is an album in a plain white cover stamped with the title Kum Back.

In Boston where the record is being sold for an exorbitant $6.95, it is being advertised as the Beatles' new Get Back album (which is not due to be officially released for several weeks).

If the underground version appears in your neighborhood, beware. It is not what it seems to be. It is missing at least eight minutes' worth of material that is scheduled to appear on the regular release. Missing are two long songs, "One After 909" and "Dig It," and short snatches of "Save the Last Dance for Me" and "Maggie May." The bootleg album is, in short, a rip-off.

And remember friends, it's no better to be ripped off by a long-haired capitalist than a short-haired one.

-30-

SOUTH VIETNAMESE FARMERS TAXED ON OWN FOOD

PARIS (LNS) -- The Vietnamese farmers of Huong My district in the province of Ben Tre are required to deliver their harvests to the local representatives of the Saigon regime for "safe-keeping." When they wish to use part of their produce for their own consumption, the farmers are required to pay a tax, reports the Information Bulletin of the Provisional Revolutionary Government.

Heavy taxes are also levied on marriage certificates and on permission to bury and exhume the dead. In many cases, local people are forced to make direct financial contributions to the Saigon regime.

Local people are also forced to "contribute" obligatory non-paid labor. Several "strategic hamlets" are required to provide the government with 200 "work-units" per day. A work unit is equivalent to the work of one person for one day.

-30-

NORTH KOREANS CUT CANE IN CUBA

HAVANA (LNS) -- A volunteer group of nearly a hundred young people from North Korea have arrived in Cuba to cut cane in the Ten Million Ton Harvest. They join brigades from Vietnam and the U.S. already working in the harvest.

The Koreans are all "Chollima Riders" -- workers and soldiers honored for their outstanding revolutionary spirit. The original Chollima Riders are legendary Korean heroes who expelled Mongolian and Chinese invaders from the Korean peninsula centuries ago.

-30-

U.S. OCCUPIERS DESTROY KOREAN CULTURE

SEOUL, South Korea (LNS) -- One way an occupying army can demoralize the people it is attempting to control is to destroy its culture. The U.S. did this in Japan after the war. It did it in Cuba for 50 years -- before the Revolution. It does it in Puerto Rico every day.

In South Korea, where tens of thousands of U.S. troops keep a pliant dictatorship in power, the traditional Korean culture is being systematically and purposefully destroyed.

The old city wall around Seoul, built by Koreans generations ago to repel foreign aggressors, is nearly in ruin. Much of the wall was torn down to meet certain "military" requirements established by the U.S. Army.

Korean libraries and museums are being plundered by American agencies, often under innocent-sounding programs such as the "Plan for the Exhibition of Cultural Relics Abroad."

A recent report from the Korean Central News Agency (North Korea) charged that the U.S. is responsible for the removal or destruction of an important collection of Buddhist scriptures -- "the world's first printings which show the resourceful talent of our ancestors in the development of printing art."

-30-

From Marilyn Salzman-Webb, 1945 Calvert St.,N.W., Washington, D. C. 20009 phone (202) 387-6436

NOTES TO MY SISTERS IN WOMEN'S LIBERATION

RE: "MOVEMENT" MEDIA AND THE NEED TO BUILD OUR OWN COMMUNICATIONS

I used to work for The Guardian, a publication that has long been influential in "the Movement," but I recently quit and want to share some thoughts about why I did with my sisters -- those who work for other papers and those who don't.

The Guardian began publishing over twenty years ago as an independent left paper, and in the past three years it has come to be known more as an independent paper of the so-called New Left. In recent months it has become more important than formerly because of the general fractionalization of the left -- the end of SDS, no new national political organization really capable of giving political direction, the rightward and single issue drift of the Mobe, the entrance of the liberal community to the anti-war movement, etc. For this reason many of us thought it important to build the Guardian politically so it could better serve people by getting out information and general, hopefully non-sectarian but good, political analysis.

During this same period Women's Liberation became more and more powerful a force on the political scene. In some cities, it has come to fill the political void created by the shattering of other organizations, and has been giving strong political leadership to a slagging white movement. Women on the staff of the Guardian were swept along in our growing movement, and we tried to assert our politics by giving coverage and analysis in the Guardian's pages.

We were naive, as are most of us when dealing with "radical" men. Men on the Guardian (those who control the paper) no more wanted independent women's coverage than they wanted recipes for fondu, and in fact, that's how they saw our movement. Last year a strong women's collective was built on the paper. Systematically, and quite destructively to them personally, these women were purged one by one, divided from each other, and thrown off the paper -- the stronger ones who persisted to press for political direction, were treated most destructively. I was not in New York, where the paper's main office is, but in a bureau here in D.C., so the stories I got of internal fighting were only second or third hand, and I responded to confusion by refusing to believe it existed. I wanted the paper to continue, so I ignored the personal and political battles that in fact involved me even though I naively thought they didn't.

The Guardian is probably the same as all other movement and/or underground media in this regard. Women do business, typing, etc. but are not encouraged as writers. Women's liberation coverage is given last priority space-wise and only then because 1) it will sell papers because women are interested, 2) it's politically wise to throw a few women and women's articles in so the male supremacist nature of the paper isn't too obvious, or 3) some women have waged a real struggle -- but it's never put in as important and politically necessary news. Sometimes we are allowed to do special supplements, but that too is a rarity, and seen as a one-shot deal to keep us off men's backs.

By summer I was left as the only woman writer on the Guardian staff. I tried to fill the void by writing exclusively about women's liberation and refusing to do other articles as much as I could. I solicited articles from some of you, only to apologize later for their getting lost, changed, not printed, etc. Mostly, knowing the background of other women's experiences, I responded by sagging morale, and because I was isolated in D.C., by not sending in articles or soliciting them finally, knowing they wouldn't be used. Guardian men used divide and conquer tactics by getting us to act against each other as women. They played on our insecurities, our sexuality, our fears of competance and of incompetance -- on our own oppression. I felt myself becoming the "house nigger" and finally quit because I didn't want this position.

Recently I began talking to other women working on underground papers and found their experiences remarkably similar -- despite women's supplements and regular articles. Women's Liberation is not being covered in the Movement press in a way that is adequate, truthful, consistent and important. This, I now realize in disbelief at my own stupidity, is typical of all movement organizations we have been talking about in women's liberation for the past two years, and I can't imagine why I was so dumb as to make an exception for newspapers when I had already learned the hard way about organizations.

We have started Women's Liberation because we cannot work in those organizations -- because those organizations do not speak to or fight for our liberation, because we are oppressed in them as well as by the broader society. It is time we began our own media to communicate with each other and to build our movement further, because if we continue to work through the movement press we will continue to have our communications, thoughts, space allotments, whatever, controlled by those same men who have hampered our growth already in their organizations. We need to build our own independent media to serve the needs and interests of our growing movement.

This is not a plea for all women to quit working for the papers they now staff -- although that, too, might be important to do in the future and some women might consider doing that now. What we need to do is to create independent women's papers that we can all support, work for, write for and see as our own. Instead of slaving over rewriting or softening articles we know will be rejected, we should be collecting these and spreading them among our sisters ourselves.

Several of us in Washington plan to start a women's paper. We hope it will grow into a weekly but at the beginning it will probably be monthly -- or more, growing as we get money, articles, distribution, etc. We see it having reportage with analysis important to us as women -- what the labor department and corporations are doing to us; abortion law decisions; HEW and

businessmen's plans for child care for us -- whatever is news; analysis of women's conditions; reportage of what Women's Lib. groups are doing; articles about our own experiences at work, while we were growing up, the culture of "women's world" -- department stores, supermarkets, etc; and whatever else women want to write -- poetry, graphics, etc. It will be like an underground paper -- cheap and saleable on streets to sisters. The paper should be able to reach all women -- working women, housewives, runaways, etc.

We need your suggestions -- your comments -- ideas -- your articles. We would especially like news of what you are doing -- projects, actions, analysis, photos. As soon as we get a first issue out we'll send copies out for comment, criticism, etc.

We see this paper as just the beginning of our own media -- an addition to magazines, journals and incidental mimeoed papers now coming out. From discussions with women on other papers, we think sisters will begin doing papers all over. Maybe we could build some system of news exchange, or whatever -- but generally we hope to free ourselves to think and communicate amongst ourselves to build a strong women's movement.

* * * *

From Black Panther Party Headquarters, 3106 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, Calif. 94705, phone (415) 845-0103

The Black Panther Party is now working to produce a photographic history of the Party. We are gathering all photographs dealing with the Black Panther Party's history; and photos that illustrate the economic, political and social injustices which the people's struggle is fighting to eliminate. These photos are going to be made into a book about the Party and the people's fight against exploitation and oppression in America today.

Your photographs will be used to combat the lies and repression of the establishment mass media machinery that is attempting to mislead the people and discredit the Party and the people's struggle. We want all photos concerning the Party's activities; programs in action, meetings, conferences, rallies, alliances, demonstrations, police confrontations and its community, national and international relations -- everything etc Photos from the Party's very beginning in Oakland in 1966 to today's Party as a 32 branch national organization for liberation that deals with liberation as a world-wide international struggle of all oppressed people. We also want photographs about the real America, not television America. The contradictions, lies, injustices, oppression and exploitation as seen by you.

Photographers, one and all, who have taken photos of the Party and the injustices of America are requested to send in all prints of Panthers and of oppression from your area you can get your hands on. Photo credit will be given, anonymous photos will be welcome also.

This is a national project that will and must represent all of the people. It is for, by and of the people to fight the repression and lies of the power structure's new media. Since the press is not FREE we must create our own media to uphold our freedom. It will take the collective effort and energy of you and everyone, so please contact your comrades, newspapers, agencies and all other photo sources. The project is in full process at the present and your immediate response is requested to speed completion of the book. It is happening now. Please send your photographs to the Black Panther Party, Ministry of Information (above address). Contact your local Black Panther Party branch or the Ministry of Information (415) 848-6705 for more information.

The book will essentially be about the Party and the people's struggle against exploitation and oppression with emphasis on the resistanee and solidarity of the people, people, ALL of the people. Photos illustrating the strength and common unity of all oppressed people are requested as well.

It will be your eyes, the eyes of the people, that will tell the truth about the people, the struggle and the Black Panther Party. TELL IT LIKE IT IS. ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE AND SEIZE THE TIME.

* * * *

From LNS: Editors who think they would get a response from photographers should print the above.

* * * *

From Burning River News, 13037 Euclid Ave., Cleveland, Ohio 44112

Hopefully you have noticed that the BRN has not published for several weeks. The life of BRN has not come to an end, but, if all goes well, is just beginning. We are ceasing publication only temporarily, we hope, until we work out some problems that have been plaguing us. This letter is to relate those problems to you and some of the possible solutions we are considering. If you have any suggestions or if there is any way you might be able to help us, please call us at 249-8346 or 321-3182.

PROBLEMS OF DISTRIBUTION

How does a staff of nine, most working 8-hour-a-day jobs, as well as putting together a newspaper, have time to distribute a newspaper effectively? On top of this, distribution has been alienating to us, because we've had to sell the paper. Both these problems make it difficult to have a regular readership, and to serve the community by getting the paper off the press to lots of people as fast as possible. We want to give the paper away free. Free, in bulk, to groups, to insure a regular readership. Free, on the streets, to everybody we meet until we run out, to reach as many people as possible. We could give out 10,000 papers in a matter of days. This naturally leads to money problems.

MONEY PROBLEMS

Even with selling the papers, we've had money hassles. We've always ended up giving away half of them. Advertizers don't like us because of what we say. We've scraped by on loans and what we have put in from our own pocket. Lots of pages, color, and many other ideas have been out of the question financially, but we couldn't resist going ahead with them at times. The result is we are always behind and never know if we can swing it somehow for the next issue.

Now, our goals are even greater. Somehow,

we have to make it with the money. Some staff members are about to begin a major fund-raising drive for the BRN. They hope to find enough people to pledge $5, $10, or $20 per month to keep the paper going. We also hope to have more rock concerts at low, people's prices later this winter and spring. If you have any ideas (or money) that might help us, please let us know as soon as possible. The future of the BRN might depend on it.

STAFF PROBLEMS

The staff of the BRN varies with each issue, but there are about eight or nine of us who like to think of ourselves as full-time responsible staff members. But it is hard being responsible to the BRN because a lot of the time it is nothing but a drag. Most of us support ourselves by holding down full-time jobs. This means coming home after an eight-hour day feeling tired, tense, frustrated and bored. That makes it real hard to put in another 2 or 3 hours a day working for the paper.

To correct this situation, we are considering publishing only once a month. The paper would be enlarged, probably to about 24 or 32 pages. This would allow the staff members the much needed guilt-free free time they have too little of now. Of course, what would really make our task easier would be for more people (like you) to join the staff. The more committed people on the staff, the less work for each individual staff member and the better the paper can be.

* * * *

From Arnie Korotkin, The Rap, 5053 North Winthrop, Chicago, Ill. 60640

A lot has been happening here since I last wrote to you. We are now beginning to get some action orientated activities going for VISTAs. In the Jan. 1970 issue of the RAP we circulated a petition (we would appreciate it very much if you would encourage other papers to reprint it and to urge supporters and signers to write us) -- a Declaration of Conscience -- which calls for an immediate withdrawal of US troops from Vietnam and a re-ordering of American priorities.

More important though is the fact that we've taken our first steps toward the formation of a national organization of ex-VISTAs and other veterans of domestic wars. The name of the group is Radicals Against Poverty. Our address is (see above).

Yours in the hope of a better world for all mankind.

* * *

From the NMA&M Conscience, Box 3 BS, Las Cruces, N. Mex. 88001

The Conscience is no more. For a year and a half, we tried to build some semblance of a revolutionary movement in southern New Mexico, but the prevailing apathy was just too much. The radical movement down here is so weak that the power structure simply ignores us. The Conscience was never busted; no one ever firebombed our office. Instead, few stores would advertise with us more than once. Only one store in the area (including El Paso, Albuquerque and Santa Fe) would sell our rag. And worst of all, no one read it.

I don't know...maybe this all sounds like chickenshit. But you should try putting out a paper that no one writes for, that is put down patronizingly by liberals, that is taken for granted by the activists (all 20 of them), that is too "liberal" for the freaks and too "conservative" for the Maoists and too freaky for the straights. It gets to you after awhile.

Undaunted, another group of radicals (who for some reason were never available to help with the Conscience) is planning to print a successor to the Conscience.

Please keep sending LNS packets to us until the new paper gives you their address. We'll see that the packets get to them until you get their address.

It's been a real pleasure doing business with all you LNS people. We think LNS is performing a valuable service getting out the news that is ignored by the straight press.

One last word of advice: never lose contact with Amerika's fascist "heartland," which includes about half the people and perhaps 99% of the land area. The revolution is a lot weaker than you might think from the activity in the cities. Why don't you read "Freak Out in Las Cruces" in our last issue? Savor every word. Shudder a little. And then remember that the vast majority of the people in the heartland <u>believe</u> that shit. Heavy.

Keep up the struggle. Venceremos.

* * *

From The American Revolution, Box 3497, University Park, Las Cruces, New Mexico 88001.

"The American Revolution" will be replacing "The Conscience" as the local radical community newspaper in Las Cruces; our first issue will come out 28 January, 1970.

Our address will be as above.

* * * *

From Mark Pinsky, protean/radish and Duke Chronicle, Box 4696, Duke Station, Durham, North Carolina 27706.

I didn't know exactly who this should be sent to, so I'm trying you all because maybe you can pass it on.

One of the skeletons in my non-movement past was a stint on the G.E. college bowl on the Duke team. And unless I miss my guess, there are a bunch more people now in the movement who took the same trip. We're doing a lot of shit down here at and about the Hickory, N.C. G.E. plant in the radish and this morning we thought of a possible tie-in.

If we could dig up a bunch of these people, we could do at least two things to embarass G.E. First, we could do up a statement, running in content anywhere from wishy washy liberal fluff to some good hard anti-imperialist, anti-racist-chauvinist-war profiteering action. Second, we could ask sympathetic students and/or schools to boycott the show or even disrupt it or make some statements on the air.

Whoever the p.r. people who are handling the agit-prop work for the workers, they might dig up four straight-looking former college bowl people from the N.Y. area, take a picture of them sitting at a college bowl type table, except where the school name is, put "G.E. workers." -- perhaps counter faced to an empty table labled "management." The body of the text could be set in the show's question-and-answer format.

It's just an idea.

From Rich Unger and the staff of the Fort Lauderdale Free Press, P.O. Box 23584, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. 33308.
Brothers and Sisters:

We of the Fort Lauderdale Free Press have been kicked, spit upon and beaten but that shit is over.

For it has taken my staff and myself over four months to accumulate enough money to come out with our first issue in over five months this does not mean that we are not feeling what you are feeling or that we do not want what you want, it is just that our heads are really fucked up after taking this crap.

We sould like to make this the southern branch of L.N.S.

We have the man power the people power and the street power to do this. Everyone from the F.B.I. to the state pigs have tried to stop us and between one Jew, 5 wasps and one wop, and last but not least 6 Catholics we will not stop. Fort Lauderdale is ready for the youth but its people are scared.

They must be told that we come in peace not in war and that we are here to stay no matter what the consequences.

PLEASE PRINT IN THE RADICAL MEDIA BULLETIN BOARD.

Peace and freedom.

* * *

From Doug Lummis, AMPO, Ishii Bldg., 6-44, Kagurazaka, Shinjukuku, Tokyo, Japan.
Brothers and Sisters,

I don't think I have to tell you how important is the Movement in Japan. The U.S.-Japan Security Treaty is perhaps the single most important treaty support for America's Asian policy, including the War in Vietnam. Radical critique of and action against the treaty has developed only here; until quite recently very few in the American left knew anything about it.

And there's a lot going on here besides action against the treaty. The left here is encouraging and harboring American deserters, working with movements of farmers and young workers, building new organizational forms, developing new theory.

I'm sure I also don't have to tell you how hard it is to get any information in English about the Japanese left. What articles do get into the radical press are for the most part based on establishment sources. That is why we have started putting out Ampo (from Ampo Hunsei, Japanese for Smash the Security Treaty)

We are enclosing a stack of copies under separate cover. What we would like you to do is send them out free to your best subscribers along with the next issue of LNS. We have collected very few subscribers and expect to collect few; our best hope is that we will be reprinted by underground press. All we ask is credit.

We would also like it if you would print some kind of review or blurb on Ampo in LNS. Please let us know how this works out, and if you need additional copies.

* * *

From LNS:

We have in our office a good number of copies of Ampo, although not enough to send out to all of our subscribers. People who are interested in receiving this issue which includes stories on recent activities in Japan and analysis of the Nixon-Sato deal on Okinawa should let us know and we will get it to you as soon as possible.

* * *

From the staff of the MINORITY REPORT, Box 252, Dayton, Ohio 45401:
Yes folks, we thought we'd start our second year of life in the red, dead-broke and hurting, exactly as we were born last January.

We believe we did some good in our first year. It's not easy to produce an underground paper in Dayton -- if indeed anything comes easy in this town. The difficulty is compounded, moreover, when your intention is to be more than a newspaper, more, even, than an alternative press, when your goal is to be part of an on-going movement for radical social change within the city of Dayton and America at large.

Given the immaturity of this movement in the Dayton area, it is incumbent upon us to take an active role by organizing and supporting programs for radical social change, as well as reporting them and doing all the work necessary to run an alternative press.

What this has cost us is time, energy, and money, sometimes exhaustingly so. We have also suffered in the last couple of months: another eviction (our third this year), an arrest of a staff member, and a theft of some $80 (which is a lot to us.)

Thus we have come to make this special appeal for funds. Please help us out.

In the struggle.

* * *

From Tom Cipolla, THE HARBINGER, P.O. Box 501, Sebastopol, California, 95472:
Subscribers and Friends,

Financial problems have prohibited us from publishing The Harbinger since October. Initial investment costs have never been fully liquidated and it is, therefore, nearly impossible to deal with the bills and continue to publish. The problem is not insoluble, however. If we can consolidate our debts, thus reducing monthly operating costs, it will be solved.

It has been our hope since the beginning to create an independent, serious local newspaper for Sonoma County. Paid circulation in Sonoma County has grown from 900 copies for the first issue, to 1,900 for the last. The paper reaches many people who have no other independent source of information. We would like to continue. We would like to develop a broader format and more frequent publication. But we need your help.

Please help. Mail your contributions to the above address.

* * *

From LNS:

We really hope that papers functioning on a solid financial basis will respond if they possibly can to the appeals of others who are struggling.

* * *

From HOI LIEN HIEP THANH NIEN VIET-NAM, VIETNAM YOUTH FEDERATION: (a new year's card)

With our brotherly greetings and best wishes for success in the struggle for peace, national independence, democracy and social progress

THE GE STRIKE AND THE LABOR MOVEMENT: AN INTERVIEW WITH DON TORMEY OF THE UNITED ELECTRICAL WORKERS UNION

By LIBERATION News Service

[Editor's note: Don Tormey is the International Representative of the United Electrical Workers Union (UE) for eastern Massachussetts. He is working at the Ashland, Mass., GE plant during the current strike.

The UE is the second largest of the 13 unions striking against the General Electric Company, the IUE (International Union of Electrical Workers) is the largest. The UE is one of the few unions that did not totally repudiate its radical past during the red-baiting of the 1950's. Tormey has been an organizer for the UE since 1939.

* * *

HOW DO YOU SEE THIS STRIKE AT THIS POINT IN THE HISTORY OF THE LABOR MOVEMENT?

The significance of this particular strike in GE is that it's the first real effort made to unite GE workers since the split in the union movement in 1949 and 1950.

The effort was possible because the company has treated all of its employees, regardless of what union they're in, the same way, with constant attempts to speed up. They've had 20 years of inferior contracts, inferior wage settlements, and inferior fringe benefit settlements.

The IUE was created to split the UE in 1949, on a sort of a patriotic binge to get rid of foreign spies who they call "reds," meaning the union and its program. The effects of the Cold War on the labor movement have been more devastating in the electrical manufacturing industry than they have in auto or steel. Other industries didn't suffer to the extent of an organizational split which made it impossible to wage a united fight against the General Electric Company. It was possible to have a united fight against General Motors, or Bethlehem Steel or Chrysler or whoever.

Now if this unity of the various unions in the General Electric Company can succeed in winning the strike, then it will be a platform for even further unity in the future, and creates the possibility of uniting all forces at some stage in organic unity, all GE workers in one union again.

OUTSIDE THE ELECTRICAL INDUSTRY, WHAT ABOUT THE WHOLE GOVERNMENT APPROACH TO UNIONS?

The attempt by the government to bust unions has been going on since the passage of the Taft-Hartley law. The passage of the Taft-Hartley law was designed by corporation lawyers, chief among whom was a GE lawyer by the name of Gerard Reilly.

It came about as a result of the obvious gains to be made by a united labor movement, as in 1946 when the steel workers and the auto workers and the electrical workers in all the major plants went on strike at the same time, for the same demands. All won the strike, all won the same settlement. There were nearly half a million workers on strike at that time. That strike ended in the spring of 1946.

By the end of 1946, the Taft-Hartley law had already passed the Congress, based on the necessity, according to those who wanted to have the law passed, of breaking the "monopoly" hold of labor in the United States and making it "fair" for companies to petition for elections and to be able to speak to employees inside the plant singly and in groups against the union policies.

In addition to that, the 1946 strike resulted in a great propaganda campaign against this united labor movement on the grounds that it had been led at least in part by communists. (The charge of communism against the CIO stemmed from its early organizing days in the middle thirties, and the first charge actually came from the A.F. of L. bureaucrats who didn't want the CIO to organize.)

So the Taft-Hartley law included a section which said that people would not be able to use the National Labor Relations Act in order to organize and hold elections, as had previously been done, unless they signed affidavits that they were not members of the Communist Party.

The trade union movement, both the A.F. of L. and the CIO at the beginning, described the law for exactly what it was, a fink law, and decided they wouldn't even use it. They thought that the combined unions had enough strength to organize and win all kinds of things without any law.

That broke down in the CIO on the grounds that the CIO was not strong enough to organize in the South, mainly in the textiles and in other unorganized plants in the South, without using the National Labor Relations Act. Therefore it was necessary for those unions who wanted to organize in the South to participate in the National Labor Relations Act and sign affidavits that they weren't Communists, no hard feelings, etc., but this was necessary for them.

Not only did the South not get organized, but those unions that signed the affidavits then began to raid other unions, including the UE, who had not signed them. And the unions that had not signed the affidavits could not get on the ballot, so that in order to vote for the UE it was necessary to vote for no union at all: there was no way to be on the ballot. The first raids in our industry took place under the leadership of the UAW, where the UAW had signed the affidavits and the UE had not, and the UAW promptly raided the UE, mainly in New England. They took over the city of Hartford.

By 1949 the division in the labor movement had become plain, and the national convention of the CIO actually expelled eleven unions from the CIO. There are only one or two left of which the UE is only a fraction of its former self. After the expulsion, the Un-American Activities Committee and, as time went on, the McCarthy Committee and all the various state Un-American Activities committees began their attacks on the UE and further decimated it.

This lasted through the whole McCarthy period, through the whole Korean war, and during all the period when the United States was convinced that the Cold War was necessary. All of America was frightened, professors were chased out of the university, labor people were sent to jail for perjury on the grounds that they had signed non-Communist affidavits and some witness said that they were Communists. This continued for a long time, right up until the people in the United States began to believe that perhaps they weren't going to win the war in Vietnam.

As a result of the opposition to the Vietnamese war by the students in the United States and their refusal to shut up about it, and the calling of teach-ins by which they recruited some professors to the anti-war ranks, it made it a little more respectable for all kinds of other people who were afraid to speak out beforehand to begin speaking out on the Vietnam war.

It resulted in unions and people like those in the UE who had always been against this kind of thing, being much freer to speak themselves. And other areas of the trade union movement began to break away such as Walter Reuther's breaking away from the AFL-CIO, his refusal to be a part of what he himself had brought about or helped to bring about in the 1950's. It's now respectable in the trade union movement to be for peace and to demand that everyone come home and this corresponds to a deepening attempt on the part of American corporations, the General Electric Company in particular, to put the heat on.

The result of the war and the profiteering of the war has led to inflation, and the inflation shows no sign of stopping, and the people who are going to pay for inflation if American industry has its way, are the common ordinary American working people. We don't plan to pay for the inflation that we don't believe we had anything to do about. Those unions that did participate actively in helping to create the whole Cold War mentality in the United States and in the organization of working people, can no longer have the same position as General Electric on foreign policy or any other policy that tends to create inflation or bad times at home for their own members.

That necessity led to a unity of negotiations and a unity in the strike against GE. We believe that unity which was built in the most disunited section of the trade union movement, at least in its industrial sections, will lead to the possibility of a further unity of those other unions that are disaffected with the executive council of the A.F. of L. for whatever reason - Reuther, Teamsters, whatever. A new coalition of unions will be created based on defending the rights of their members in industry against the employer, based on an opposition to any further adventures by American imperialism which kills off the young population and leads to inflation and hard times

at home.

The time is right and the effect of the GE strike may very well make it ripen even further, for developing a coalition of trade union people with students, university people, intellectuals and that part of the population which is opposed to war and imperialism. That can be one of the effects of a successful strike in the General Electric Company.

WHERE DO YOU SEE THAT HEADING IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS?

If American industry and those oil companies, manufacturing companies which exploit the resources of the third world, are not able successfully to exploit those resources of the United States and that will lead to ever sharper clashes

Now those clashes are bound to take the course of strikes, they're also bound on the other side to take the course of even greater repressive legislation against trade unions. There's been a campaign now for several years in the United States to pass a law forbidding industry-wide bargaining. Not only industry-wide as it relates to a whole industry like the electrical industry or the auto industry or the steel industry, but, in effect, company-wide bargaining of multi-plant companies like General Motors, or U.S. Steel, or General Electric or Westinghouse; thereby further splitting up the trade union movement so that each little plant local must defend itself and that no other union can participate in the defense of one local that may be engaged in a struggle or a strike against its own plant management or a multi plant company

DO YOU THINK THE FEAR OF OPPOSING CAPITALISM WILL EASE OFF NOW?

There are a lot of fears of opposing capitalism in the United States. I think it will ease off the large part of the population the same way the fear of being opposed to the Vietnam war eased off. There is an element in the United States which is not afraid, that's the young students and the black people. As these people carry on the fight they're carrying on it makes it a lot easier for other sections of the population to do the same. So far as losing fear of repressive government or repressive corporations, the historic role of the trade union movement was reversed. The students had to show us the way.

I'm not so sure that the students will not also show us the way not to be afraid of trying to introduce Socialism into the United States. Although, there's no way to do it without the working class. But they're helping us all lose fear, by questioning, re-examining the kind of arguments that say that private enterprise is the way it always it has to be, that's the way it's always going to be.

So far as working people are concerned, at least in my memory, what private enterprise has brought us is depression, war, inflation, depression, war, inflation, in just one round, one after another during my lifetime. Repeated too many times, people get pretty tired of it. There's no question that in every capitalist country in what is called the "free world," the people who control the economy turn to fascism before they will allow the people to establish socialism.

There is no reason to believe that the American capitalist class will act any different than the German capitalist class, or the Spanish capitalist class, or the Italian capitalist class, or the Greek capitalist class. If the issue is joined that under capitalism there can only be depression and wars and inflation, and this is necessary to maintain private enterprise, those who own the natural wealth, the private enterprise, will accept fascism as a form of life in the United States rather than give it up.

And the trade union movement, the organized labor movement, and those who want to fight for a decent life or even to maintain the normal, democratic rights that we've known, or that at least white people in America have known, it's going to be a terrific struggle just to maintain that.

* * *

People will admit after a short discussion in their own lagnuage, that socialism has got to come. That is that goods, the wealth, should be owned collectively and that the goods should be produced because people need them.

The thing is nobody knows how we're going to get to that point, and when you talk about struggle,



more

they're not going to struggle if they can get by without it. They know instinctively what they've learned a thousand and one ways, that the final conflict is a bloody thing. And they don't want to go into that final conflict unless they're forced into it; nobody ever went into it except when they were forced into it. What crummy thing you're living in now is better than some crummy thing you don't know. So they stay there because they don't know how much worse it might be someplace else.

I think there would have to be a crisis in which the ruling class is unable to control things before any successful change in the structure of society can take place.

HOW CLOSE WAS THAT KIND OF SITUATION APPROACHED IN THE 'THIRTIES?

Well, I don't think it was really approached that close. There were a lot of instances in the 'thirties when groups of perfectly respectable working men simply robbed the local A&P and Stop-and-Shop and First National or chain store. Not just robbed them, but sometimes publicly just told the clerks and management that they can't pay enough, and walked away with groceries. There were plenty of instances of the eviction of tenants and the calling in of mortgages on farms where the farms were being auctioned off and bought back for two bucks. The auctioneers were forced to take the bid. This happened in many areas of the United States. But the government was still able to govern.

Roosevelt came to power in 1933. He had plenty of ability to govern. He issued an order and the banks closed. He put through certain kinds of legislation, developed all kinds of hopes in the minds of everybody, and there was a whole upswing.

Now sure, that whole movement got co-opted by Roosevelt and the New Deal, but so will any movement of masses of workers involved in a struggle for organizing a union, and for achieving some sort of a better standard of living. They get a dime raise or they get a better job or they get the right to talk to their boss about a grievance - they won a tremendous victory, they're ready to rest now.

If the shutdowns and the strikes and the sit-ins of the French in May of 1968 or what's been going on in Italy for the whole year of 1969 in every industry, mass strikes -- if those have not yet cracked it open, well, what went on in the 1930's in the United States is like kindergarten compared to what they're doing now. It would have required much, much more.

But if you dig a few inches, you'll find that the American working class is going to prefer, and already does to the extent that they know about it, socialism to capitalism. Their idea of socialism or communism is fogged over with the anti-Soviet, anti-Communist, stuff that's been going on in America since the Bolsheviki first won power. That it's against nature, that it's against what we believe to be freedom and democracy and all those things.

They have adopted the culture of the ruling class, the ideas of the ruling class. Workers want two cars instead of one, or if they don't have any, they want one. They want a color television. They see that the way to be promoted is to get rich, to be promoted is to be a boss.

There are all kinds of people in the trade union movement who think that promotion is their goal, they're an officer, or a steward or the president of a local union. The boss says, "You want to be a foreman," They say, "You bet." And he comes back to the union and says, "I've got a chance to better myself," as though it were better for a guy to be some goddamned foreman than the president of the union, never mind what the money is involved.

He may get more money, but he's not bettering himself, as a representative of the working class. But it's a perfectly normal thing to happen, it happens all the time, with perfectly good people. How do we make people see that that's not an improvement, that they're not any safer as a foreman than they are in the shop or being a stooge for the boss? How do you make that any different?

It cannot be done artificially from the outside. Students are not able to come to a picket line and with slogans and literature successfully radicalize workers That cannot be done

Obviously students can radicalize other stu

dents around a given issue in a university with just slogans. You know, they're having a meeting and they point out an obvious injustice and in a typical 19th century liberal way the students say, "Gee, that's unfair," and they pitch in and help on an issue.

But the question is, workers don't particularly see it to be unfair that the boss owns the plant and they work. They don't recognize the historic gigantic unfairness of that to themselves and to the whole working class and to the whole population. And you're not able to do that around a single thing, around a single issue.

Students say if we're able to take over University Hall, why aren't you able to take over a General Electric plant. Fact is, we can take over a General Electric plant. We could take this one over tomorrow. All we have to do is get the pickets together, walk in and take the plant over. We'll have it maybe for two hours. Then we'll get thrown the hell out of there by cops and everything else. In order to successfully take over something like that there has to be almost complete unanimity of the working class to do it, every place, or in the key areas.

Now, why would people do that, why would workers agree to take over their plants, why would people take over the city hall, why would people agree to take over the governor's office or the state house? Because there is no alternative, this is the only way they can live, the other alternative is too horrible to contemplate, so they make the move.

DO YOU SEE A WORKERS MOVEMENT RELATING TO BLACK MOVEMENTS AND STUDENTS OR OTHER YOUTH MOVEMENTS?

I think there has to be a political arrangement, and an understanding basically on the part of workers themselves, why radical students or any student that participates in the movement against the war, or against GE recruiters, is an ally that we need for our own self-interest, to broaden our protective alliance. And they can do us a lot of good.

Basically I suppose what they're mad about is the quality of life they see around them and the lousy future they got. And they look and they don't see anything and they want something changed. We want something changed, basically, I think, we want the same kind of changes. I think they are wrong in thinking how quick it's going to come or what you got to do to do it, and they're making all kinds of mistakes, but who didn't? The trade union movement should welcome the youth movement, welcome the radical kids.

The black question, well, that of course is a very special question in the United States. But as I see it, the American trade union movement from the Civil War on, in what they considered to be their best interest, excluded blacks from trade unions. In the beginning not at all because blacks were some sort of inferior person that it wasn't fit to associate with, but on the basis that they thought that blacks would work for cheaper money at the beginning, and they would have. And it would have reduced the rate maybe a cent or two an hour, because of the large influx of blacks into the industries, basically into the construction or metal working industries.

But who the hell built the South? Who built those plantations, and who worked on those goddam docks? Blacks. Blacks were all kinds of skilled craftsmen all through the South. Everybody knew it. And they were perfectly able to take their place in the trade unions after the Civil War. And the National Labor Union wanted them to do it, and urged them to do it and urged the whites to accept them. And at the second convention of the National Labor Union they made such a motion, but back in the locals in the towns, the whites excluded them, on the grounds that they would exclude any competition for jobs and on the grounds that it would be easier to maintain the rate they were already being paid if there wasn't an influx into the shop -- they did it in their own self-interest.

They gambled, and they lost. Now they may not have lost right then, but the trade union movement lost over the years. Even Debs' railroad union excluded blacks. In the big steel strike, led by the leader of the American Communist Party, William Z. Foster, they might have lost that strike anyway, but one of the reasons that made it more difficult

was that the steel industries were able to get thousands of black people to work as scabs Why shouldn't a black be a scab if that's the only way to get a job?

The boss wanted whites at one time. now he wants blacks, what the hell does he care, so he becomes a scab And blacks scabbed every big strike in the United States, wherever the bosses could get a hold of them This was one of the penalties paid for what looked like self-interest after the Civil War And we're still paying it, and we'll continue to pay it Not merely until we change the thing, but I think until white trade unionists in American admit that what was done in the trade union movement from the very beginning was a goddam mistake.

We did it in our self-interest and it turns out not to be in our self-interest -- it's in the interest of the goddam boss. Now what is our self-interest? You don't make the change just because it's the decent thing to do or like good Christians -- "let's take care of our black brothers" -- that'a a lot of shit -- you do it on the basis of the self-interest of the white working man. that in our interest we gotta have the black worker in the unions, otherwise he's an instrument of the boss, or a potential one

BUT WON'T THE WHITE WORKERS MOVEMENT BE UNABLE TO ABSORB ALL BLACKS INTO IT BECAUSE THERE AREN'T THAT MANY JOBS?

That's true, to effectively do that there has to be more jobs. You got to create more jobs, and the failure to create more jobs, as far as the unemployed black section of the population is concerned, may lead to the development of better organization, better struggle.

There is not going to be any real integration of black and white until there are plenty of jobs for all Now that doesn't mean that you can't make a move until there's plenty of jobs

The black caucuses in the UAW and in steel are gonna do all right, they're going to force the issue, in such a way that it will be impossible to have a stable union -- just a stable union on a day-to-day, week-to-week, year-to-year basis in shops, unless the international unions and the various locals and regions accept the program of the black caucuses

-30-

++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++

RETURNED VOLUNTEERS PUBLISH A BOOKLET. DIG IT!

LIBERATION News Service

MILWAUKEE (LNS) -- The Committee of Returned Volunteers (CRV) has published a booklet which includes.

++ A position paper recently adopted by the CRV calling for the abolition of the Peace Corps

++ The transcript of a Radio Havana interview in which members of CRV presented a critique of voluntary services, including the Peace Corps

The booklet is available for 35¢ plus 10¢ postage Bulk rate is 30¢ each for orders of 50 or more. Order from Committee of Returned Volunteers, 1120 North 21st Street, Milwaukee WI 53233.

-30-

++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++

KIBBUTZIM: DEFENSIVE BASTIONS ON STOLEN LAND

LIBERATION News Service

TEL AVIV (LNS) -- Plans for a fourth militarized kibbutz in the valley of the Jordan River have recently been announced in Tel Aviv The kibbutz will be farmed by soldiers who will combine their agricultural work with military activities

Militarized kibbutzim have sprung up in the territory seized by Israel in the June War -- in the West Bank of the Jordan River, taken from Jordan, and in the Golan Heights grabbed from Syria The function of these kibbutzim is to assist in the occupation of the Arab land and to prevent any action which could restore the land to control by those who have traditionally lived on it

Israel's kibbutzim collective farms that some claim as evidence of "Israeli socialism," are now primarily a military institution Only about three per cent of the Israeli people live on kibbutzim, most of which are located on expropriated Arab farmland near Israel's borders

-30-

++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++

SUPPORT THE PALESTINE LIBERATION STRUGGLE!

++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++

# Hi there, I'm your friendly conscious agent of American Imperialism.

## And I'm here to show you a foreign policy to protect you and your loved ones.

It covers you and your family in 3 ways...

**1) Planned Perpetual Underdevelopment**

If you're in the $40 a year bracket you sure don't want to risk that paycheck for a revolution! By encouraging and financing safe and sane military governments AMERICAN EMPIRE © provides law and order at a low resource and labour premium.

**2) Cultural and Economic Control and Influence**

If you're a country on the move, in the swing of what's happening and you just don't want to be bothered about all those little icky budgetary problems like ownership, hand the keys over to AMERICAN EMPIRE © For only a small drain on your national resources we'll provide the kind of security and luxuries you've become accustomed to having.

—or—

if you're in a hurry
and these two are unsatisfactory

—try—

**3) Napalm**

Our latest development thought up by our researchers, in the tradition of such past plans as the atomic bomb, germ warfare, the M-1, and as far back as the Cavalry Charge and the Bowie Knife. If you're the impatient type and can't wait the 50 or so years it takes for AE's © other plans to work, then napalm is what you're looking for. This coverage is the kind that sticks with you and keeps on yielding effectively even if your home is destroyed by fire or some other disaster.

**So if you think that you're in line for our coverage and even if you don't why not see your your conscious agent today? He's really not such a special guy. He probably lives next next door, plays golf, or football with his kids. Maybe he's your local cop, or teaches your your kids. See him today. He's real friendly. Or drop into the friendly American Empire © office in your nearest country.**

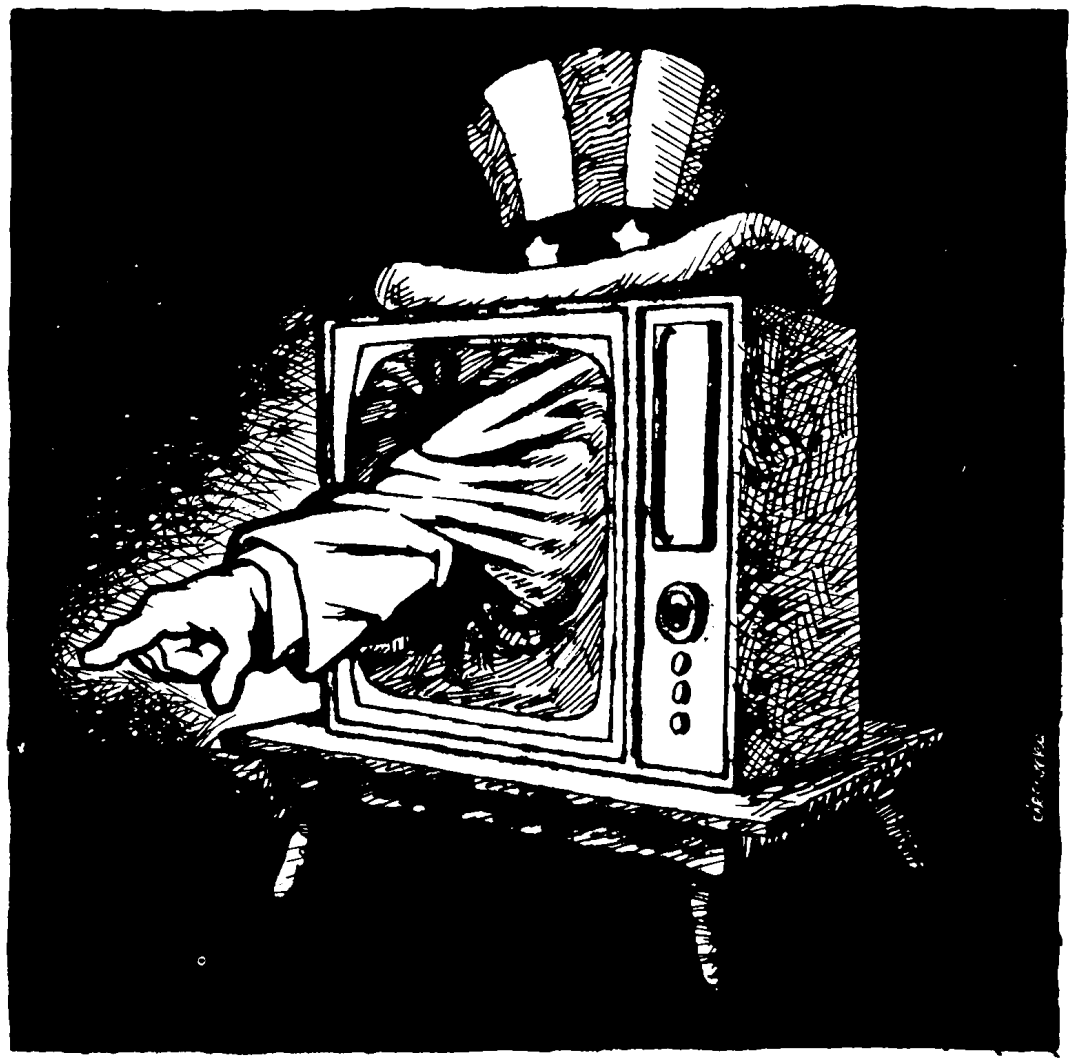
THE
# American Empire©
CANADA LTD.

Washington. Ottawa. London. Lisbon. Madrid. Rome. Bonn. Bern. The Hague. Copenhagen. Brussels. Vienna. Oslo. Dublin Canberra Saigon Saigon. Manille. Bangkok. Seoul. Rangoon. Kuala Lumpur. Taipei. New Delhi. Tel Aviv. Karachi. Johanessburg Lagos Salisbury Brazilia Buenos Aires Quito. Panama City. Lima. Bogota. Santiago. Mexico City. Tegucigalpa. San Juan. Guantanamo. Paris Vientiane. Caracas and and many, many more to serve ue you.

—from the Varsity

Credit The Varsity, LNS

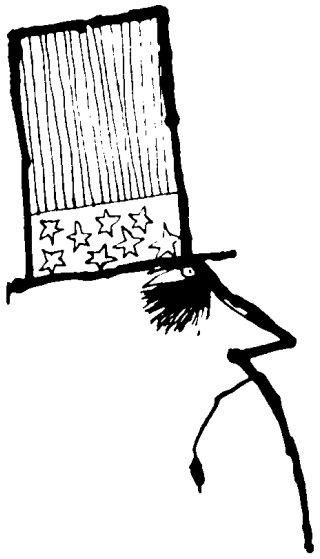
# RECLAMA SU LIBERTAD

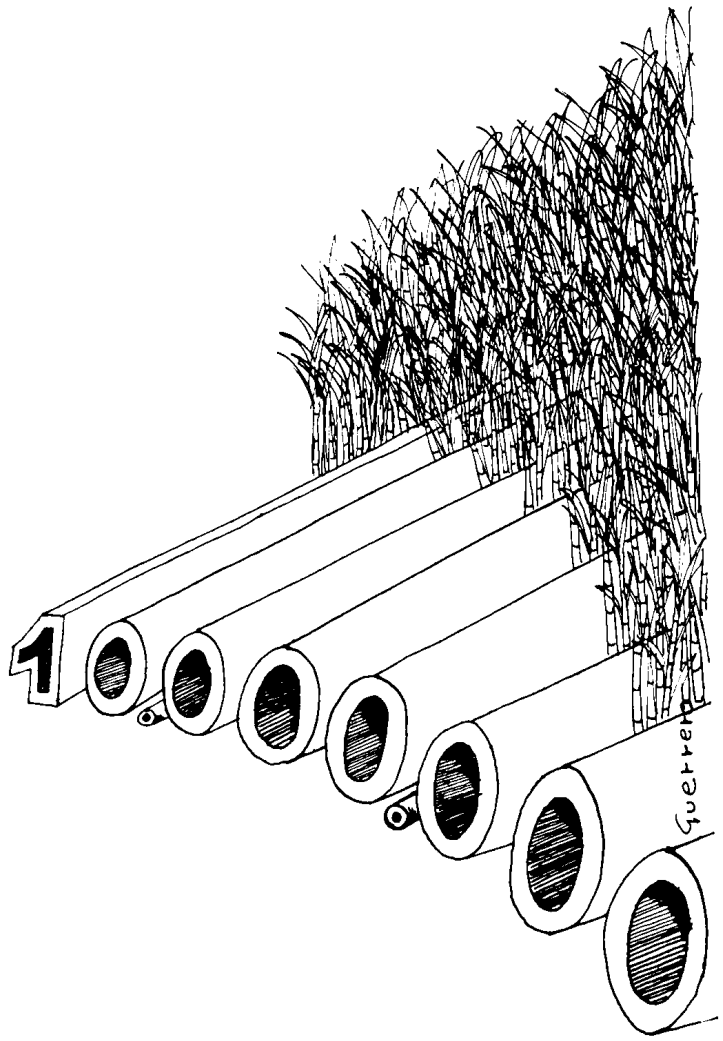


Cartoons -

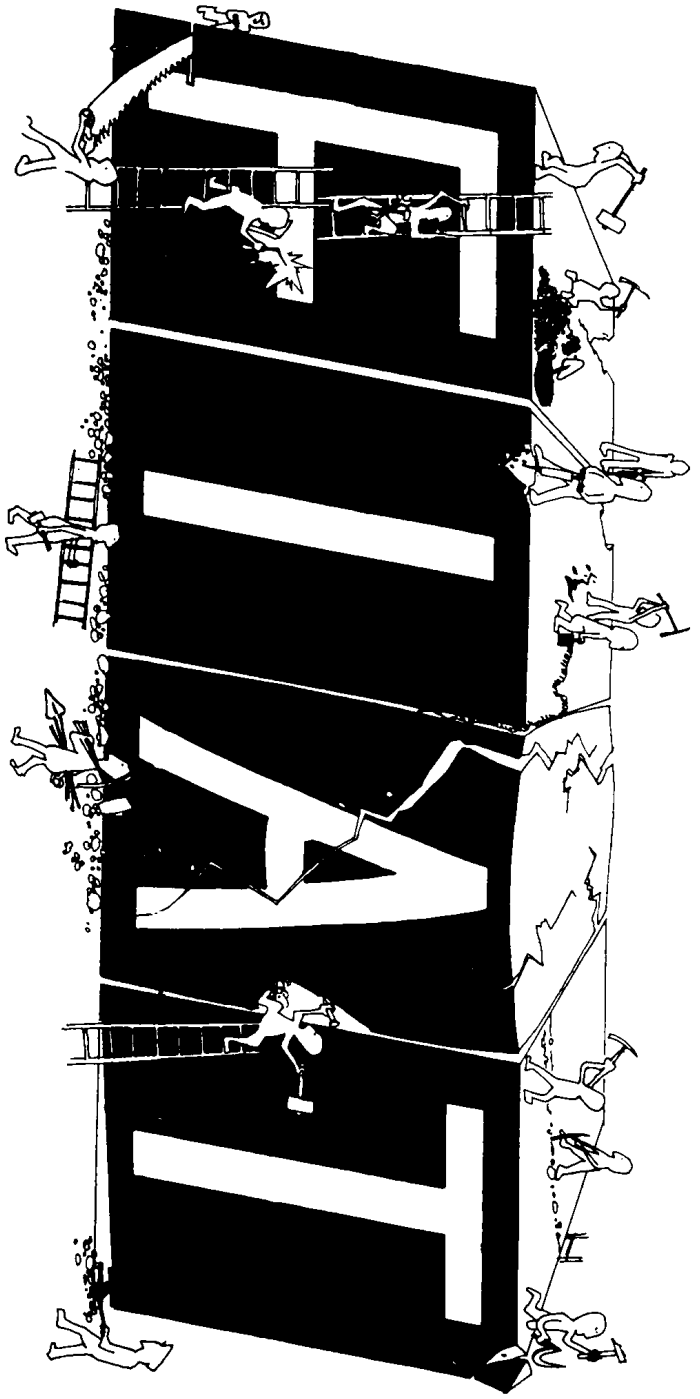
TOP - Credit Cleveland/LNS (picked up from Overload)

Bottom -- Mexican poster directed at conditions in Lecumberri prison See story last packet
Credit People's World/LNS





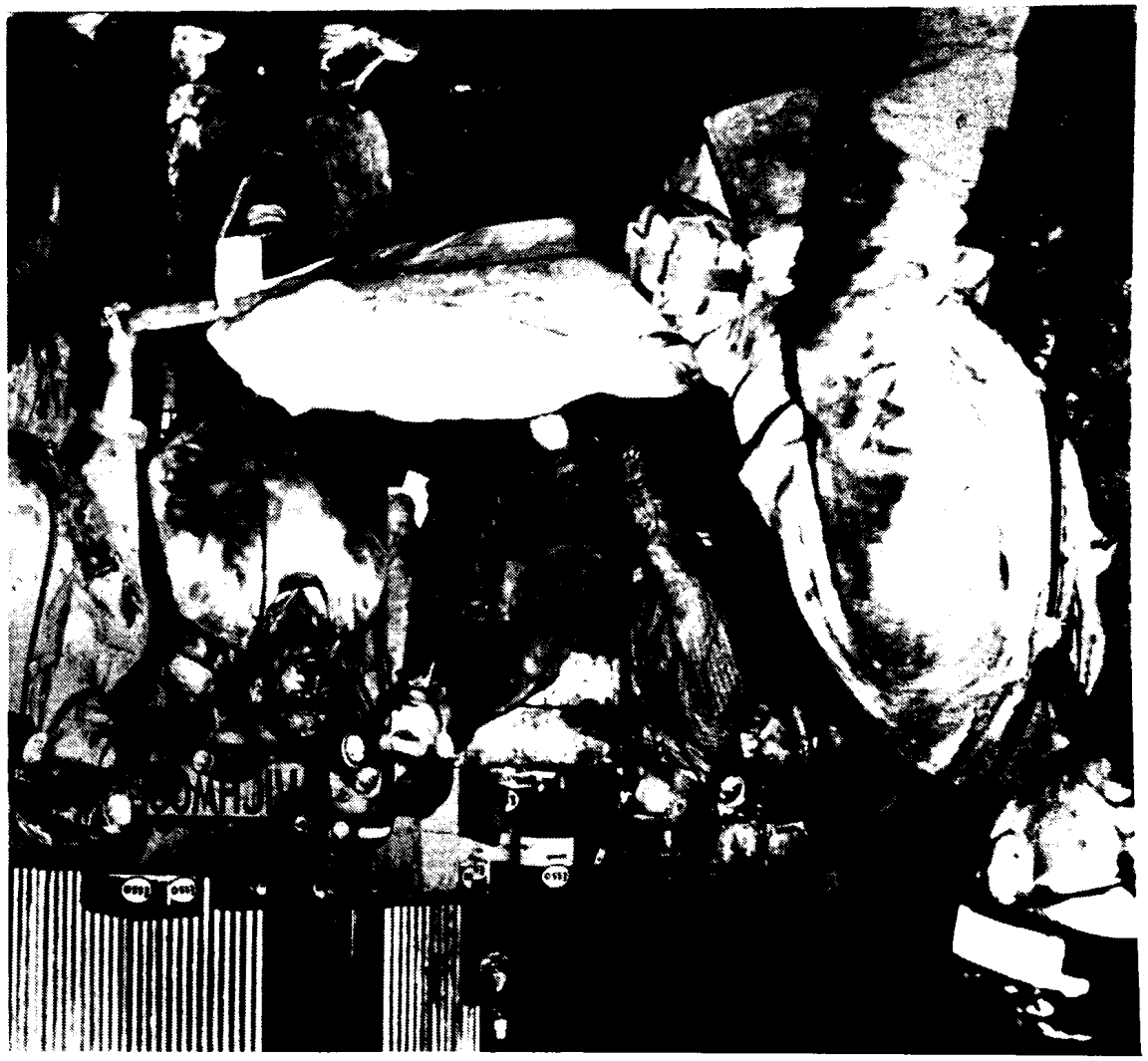

THE 10 MILLION TONS CUBAN SUGAR HARVEST



Cartoons

Top -- credit Lotta Continda/LNS (may be used with coverage of workers in Turin, Italy.)

Bottom - The 10 million tons -- credit LNS.



Photos -- Coal miners in Pennsylvania. Picture at left show miners carrying out a body from the mines, after one of what are frequent mine disasters. Credit Metro/LNS

These photos go with the story on the United Mine Workers on page 3 of the last packet (#228)